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SJC Library Gets a New Look

By Natalie Lapacek, *Features Editor*

All those familiar with the Saint Joseph's College campus may have noticed that there have been some changes in the library. The College has recently remodeled the front reading and reference area of the Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial library, and according to Cathy Salyers, Library Director, the response from SJC students has been "very positive."

The design company for the remodeling was KR Montgomery out of Anderson, Indiana. While KR Montgomery directed the work to be done, some workers from the SJC campus helped out with the remodeling process as well. Maintenance helped move furniture and prepare the floor for carpeting while the library staff cleaned and moved the books.

The remodeling began just this past June. Larger projects like the painting, new furniture, and computers, were completed before the academic year began in mid-August. However, because of some minor complications, there are still some smaller projects yet to finish.

The new look seems to be a success both within the library itself and throughout the SJC campus. Of the remodeling, Salyers says, "I think it gives the students a more comfortable space for studying and researching. I think they [the workers] did a wonderful job."

SJC student Alicia Conn, junior English major, described the new library as a "more inviting environment" and said the overall atmosphere felt more "warm and comforting."

Besides the remodeling of the front area of the library, there have been discussions about doing some work on the stacks as well, which are located in the basement. Salyers anticipates setting the plans for this continued remodeling and says that once the funds are available, the plans will most likely go into effect.

The plans for a new library have been several years in the making. A recent gift from the classes of '63 and '64 matched with a Lilly Endowment grant made the funding possible. Some of this money has been set aside to start a library endowment program, which will help provide materials to support the Core Program.



The new study tables at the SJC library.

Presidential Election 2004: A Republican Perspective

By Jacob Lofgren, *staff writer*

With slightly more than two months remaining until Election 2004 on November 2, it is important that every American citizen become familiar with the candidates in the upcoming election. In an effort to help with this decision, I was asked to provide a brief overview of the Republican Party's stances and the views of its candidate, incumbent President George W. Bush. In the upcoming weeks, *The Observer* intends to feature the opposing viewpoints as well as a debate over one of the election's key issues.

What are the main policy stances of the Republican Party? Any basic course in high school government would teach that the Republican Party is understood as the conservative party in American politics. They typically embrace reduced government spending, lower taxes, and significant spending on national defense. In terms of hot-button issues, the Republican Party stands as the

"pro-life party," in favor of reducing a woman's access to abortions, and firm advocates of the use of the death penalty as punishment in capital cases. In this year's election, however, far more issues have come into play: Iraq, the War on Terror, education, and the economy.

Republican President George W. Bush has taken solid and clear stances on many of these issues as the candidate's website, <http://www.georgewbush.com>, notes. President Bush has repeatedly vowed to do whatever is necessary to help create a free and democratic Iraq. As part of this commitment, President Bush has on several occasions refused to make a firm commitment regarding the amount of time United States armed forces will remain in the country, instead reaffirming that soldiers will remain in Iraq until the objectives have all been met.

With regards to the War on Terror, the President's website

indicates that he plans to continue building coalitions throughout the world to continue combating the terrorist cells that exist all over the planet. President Bush also intends to continue working closely with the Director of Intelligence, whom he newly appointed, to integrate the ideas of the 9/11 Commission and improve the domestic security of the United States. The President also plans to restructure and redeploy the overseas forces, so that they can more efficiently and effectively complete their objectives and fulfill their duties.

In addition to the recently passed No Child Left Behind Act, the President seeks to continue improving the quality of the American public education system. The President plans to push for an increase in funding for vocational education classes in America's public high schools, including funding for the "21st Century Initiative" which

provides significant funding for job training throughout the public high school system.

Finally, the President has vowed to lobby Congress to make permanent the tax cuts of his first administration. In addition, he plans to build coalitions of small businesses to reduce the cost of health care for employers. Both plans are part of a larger initiative to ensure the continued success of the American economy.

President George W. Bush's website provides far more information than this article space allows, and every student and/or voter should investigate the site for further information. I encourage all voters to become as informed as possible and make each vote count on November 2.

Look for
*Presidential Election 2004:
A Democratic Perspective* in
the next issue of *The
Observer* on October 14.



Voting information and graphic
courtesy of <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/e/e/eifv/howreg.htm>

Voter Registration: Points of Interest

How can I register to vote?

In Person: Go to any registration location and complete an affidavit of registration, which must be answered truthfully under the penalty of perjury. The questions on the affidavit will include your name, residence and date of birth.

By Mail: Mail-in registration forms are widely available. To obtain a mail-in registration form call 1-800-462-VOTE and a form will be sent to you. Mail the completed form to your local city or town hall.

At the Registry of Motor Vehicles: Keep your motor voter receipt until you receive confirmation from your local election official. If you do not receive any confirmation, please contact your local election office to verify your voting status.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

Four years at Saint Joseph's College have taught me one important lesson: the cafeteria food and policy get progressively worse after each passing summer. Instead of commenting on the cafeteria's so called "food," I'll focus on three recent issues that should boggle the mind of any reasonable SJC student.

Firstly, why are we no longer allowed to serve ourselves? In answering this question via comment card, the cafeteria administration indicated that this new policy was put in place to eliminate the "waste" that was occurring from people taking excessive amounts of food. In essence, a few people were taking an insane amount of food, not eating it, and then throwing it away. In response, every student is being punished! I have a better idea for the administration: do not serve us like children, but instead watch for people taking excessive amounts of food. If someone is taking three plates of chicken nuggets, stop them, but it is slightly ridiculous to have a worker counting out each and every nugget for us.

Secondly, why can't we take our backpacks into the cafeteria? In answering this question, the cafeteria administration indicates that they are attempting to prevent students from stealing silverware, salt shakers, and/or food from the cafeteria. Again, a few "not-so-smart" people are taking things from the cafeteria and the entire student body is being punished. THIS IS A COLLEGE CAMPUS... it is beyond belief that college students are told that they can't have backpacks with them at lunch. What about studying while we eat? Preparing for a quiz? Reading for a class? Don't worry cafeteria workers, I am not attempting to steal your food (who would?), I am merely attempting to bring my books into the cafeteria on the off-chance that I may want to study.

Finally, we were issued twenty-five Puma Points when approximately fifteen meals were stripped from our meal plan. The average meal in the hub costs about four dollars. We receive twenty-five Puma Points a semester or approximately six meals. If my math works correctly, that means every student on meal plan A was stripped of nine meals a semester with absolutely no drop in the price of the meal plan. How does that work?

I suppose I'll stop my rant now; everyone knows the issues and the administration has heard them. They have simply said that they can and will change the policy as they see fit. We submit, because we're at their mercy. They have a monopoly on food service and they are quick to wield their power. For now, I'll attempt to be content dropping my backpack outside the cafeteria so I can march in and be served some of the greasy slop they call food.

-- Jacob Lofren, senior

Editor's Note:

To voice your opinions concerning the new policies in the cafeteria, become a member of the Cafeteria Board of Directors. Contact Janna Oberg at joberg@saintjoe.edu for more information.

An All-Encompassing Expression of Personal Faith

By Bob Jansen, columnist

Don't wanna wait til tomorrow, / Why put it off another day? / One more walk through problems, / Built up, and stand in our way, / One step ahead, one step behind me / Now you gotta run to get even / Make future plans, don't dream about yesterday, / C'mon turn, turn this thing around / Right now, / It's your tomorrow / Right now, / C'mon, it's everything / Right now, / Catch a magic moment, do it / Right here and now / It means everything

While sitting at my desk listening to Van Halen, this song came on, and I thought it was an appropriate way to discuss different ideas of faith. As where religion is the field of theologians far more accomplished than I, faith deals with everyday experiences had by everyone. I am far more comfortable writing about my own faith life from a personal perspective rather from a religious one.

Writing about faith presupposes faith in something. Have you ever really thought about why you believe in God (if you do)? What attributes does this God have? Do you understand this God? What is the foundation of your faith?

Alcoholics Anonymous require belief in a "God of your understanding" for their program to work. I met a man this summer who actually put all his faith and trust into a rock. While it sounds funny, we have to be able to put our trust into *something*. I challenge you to find a God to which you can relate. I challenge you to learn more about God and to try to become comfortable with God.

Why even bother to believe in God? It is, admittedly, a lot of work to change your life and believe in God. I think Van Halen has the right idea: refer back to the opening lyrics. Or, if you are more philosophically minded, think of Blaise Pascal. He sets up a famous wager to show why he believes in God (*see figure 1*).

If I were going to take a bet in this scenario, I'd bet on gaining everything. In other words, I'd believe in God. This, coincidentally, is yet another reason why I love Blaise Pascal. Only he would use the prisoner's dilemma to justify faith in God.

Van Halen says essentially the same thing. It's your tomorrow, so stand up and take hold of it. Questions about religion and God are pinnacle to our lives. They mean everything. So take the chance. Take the bet and put your faith in something.

I do not see faith and religion in quite the same way that most people do, which you probably already assumed when I compared Van Halen to Blaise Pascal. For those of you brave enough to venture with me along this path, be prepared for anything. I enjoy referencing music and cinema to try and help make my points. You may not always agree with my slant, which is probably good. All I want is for you to start opening your minds and asking questions. Some questions may not have answers, but half the fun of life is trying to discover the truth.

So catch a magic moment ... do it right here and now. It means everything. (Insert awesome piano solo.)

Figure 1.

	God exists	God does not exist
Wager for God	Gain all	Status quo
Wager against God	Misery	Status quo

FEATURED PHILOSOPHICAL FARCE

By Matt LeClaire, staff contributor

A few weeks ago, I noticed that the organ was not being used anymore at Mass. There are several reasons I could think of concerning why the organ would not be used. One, it could be broken and has not yet been fixed. Two, maybe no one knows how to play it this year. Three, maybe it needs to be cleaned. Four, maybe it is being transformed into a giant blowgun!

That's right: I believe the church organ is being loaded with darts of different diameters and will soon be used to tranquilize a large army of small people or a small army of large people. I know this sounds like some crackpot idea that could never come to pass, but consider the facts.

The organ's pipes taper at the bottom and appear as though they can be rotated downward, obviously for aiming.

No one has used the organ for the longest time clearly because the darts were prepped and standing by.

And no one is allowed to climb on the organ so the church can keep its machine in nominal shape.

Up until two weeks ago, I held this belief. I always sat on the right side of the church, just in case one pipe was for me. I was not sure for when the organ was being prepped, but I was always on my toes when I had to walk near it. I kept a keen eye on those ministry folk, since they wear robes to cover the many mini-dart guns concealed on their persons.

Then, two weeks ago, they used the organ.

For the Homecoming Mass, the organ was used. I was sitting in the pew, minding my churchly business when a note bellowed. Evidently one of the holy men was onto me.

Since that day, I am ever watchful of the next war machine this religion produces, and now you are, too.

PAWS:

...to everyone who gave blood at the Red Cross sponsored blood drive on September 16.

CLAWS:

...to everyone who has stolen something off one of the balconies or patios of the apartments.

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The Rensselaer Restaurant Guide: The Rio Grande

By Renee Pugh, *staff reporter*

Guest Reviews by Sonia Honkisz, Bob Jansen, Matt LeClaire, and Sarah Wells, *staff contributors*

It is often said that God works in mysterious ways, and I firmly believe that one of those ways is the new Rio Grande restaurant in town. As many college students know, good food is hard to find. While those who work in the cafeteria do their best with what they have (tater tots + leftover ground beef = weird Shepherd's Pie concoction, anyone?), the food is simply not the good ol' home cooking for which we yearn. That being said, when I and four of my friends were offered the opportunity to review the Rio Grande, we leapt at the chance. Five people with very different tastes and preferences paid a visit to this Mecca of Mexican, and below are the fruits of our, ahem, labors.

Sonia Honkisz, Senior

The Rio Grande offers its customers a chance to

experience authentic Mexican flavors. Starting off with homemade salsa, guacamole, and chips warm from the oven, the meal gets only better. With your taste buds already satisfied, yet ready for more, the menu offers a variety of choices and whether you choose the enchiladas or the fajitas, you can't go wrong. I definitely recommend the rice, and the steak was grilled exactly the way I like it. Though I normally do not like Mexican cuisine, I can't say enough about the food at Rio Grande.

It was so much more than a good plate of food. It was a meal at the dinner table with friends. I highly recommend Rio Grande to everyone.

Matt LeClaire, Sophomore

When the only concern is that your straw is too small, you know the restaurant is

freakin' awesome! Its freakin' awesomeness keeps me up at night, I tell you what. The awesomitude of the freaktastic (noun) is so frickin' awesome, I want to go there everyday and praise Don Ernesto for his awesome mcfreakyness. In Rensselaer, there are not many choices for a good, wholesome meal, especially ethnic fare. Rio Grande offers fantastic food at affordable prices. The service is excellent and the facilities are clean. Eat there daily.

Renee Pugh, Senior

Firstly, if there is not yet a patron saint of awesome food, I nominate Don Ernesto, owner of the Rio Grande. Secondly, WOW. The meal began with a basket of warm tortilla chips and small dishes of homemade salsa, guacamole, and cheese sauce. In spite of ourselves, we gorged on the chips and fresh dips. But the best, my friend,

was yet to come. Our feast began in earnest when our main dishes were brought out. My fajita dinner was presented to me still sizzling on a skillet. My corn tortillas were warm and soft. The rice was cooked to perfection. We all sampled from one another's plates, each one a delight in itself. Affordable and delectable, this meal cannot be topped. After my wonderful experience at the Rio Grande, I have decided one thing: if there is no Mexican food in Heaven, I don't want to go.

Sarah Wells, Senior

Walking into the Rio Grande, I could tell that this was going to be different. First off, I smelled food....better yet, edible food! Then, when our wonderful waitress brought out the freshly made salsa and guacamole, I realized I wasn't just imagining things. I was

really experiencing dinner...delicious, hot, fulfilling dinner. It only got better when my combination platter arrived. It was filled with rice, beans, a chili relleno, a chicken enchilada, and a chicken soft taco wrapped in a homemade tortilla. I couldn't believe my eyes, and my stomach couldn't believe its luck. The meal looked good, smelled good, and better yet, tasted good. Walking out of the restaurant, I wanted to run back into the kitchen and hug the cooks. They had made an amazing dinner, and for about eight bucks, I will definitely be going back.

The Rio Grande is located at 100 E. Washington St., and may be reached at 866-3337. They also accept credit cards and carry out orders.

SJC Introduces Pre-Law Mentorship Program

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

Dr. Peter Watkins, Associate Professor of Political Science and pre-law advisor of 14 years, is spearheading a new program at Saint Joseph's College: the pre-law mentorship program. The project incorporates a network of SJC alumni who are law school graduates willing to mentor current pre-law students. Thus far, mentors have been confirmed in Virginia, Florida, Illinois, and Indiana.

Watkins believes the new mentorship program will improve the success of pre-law students after graduation. "This program will draw on successful SJC alumni who are law school graduates and allow pre-law students to form career relationships with them," he said.

Involved students, while getting to know their mentors, will obtain information first hand about the law school application process, ups and downs of law school, and how to begin a career in law. "These things are important for them to hear because these graduates have actually done it all," he explained. "By interacting with

the mentors, students can improve their chances of getting into law school and perhaps learn some career options as well."

According to Watkins, this program not only reflects the dedication of SJC's pre-law students and alumni but also the College's commitment to personal attention for all students. "Every student receives personal attention at SJC, and this program takes that one step further. The alumni who volunteered their services for this program haven't forgotten that personal touch they encountered at this institution. Their willingness to help our pre-law students, moreover, says a lot about the loyalty of our alumni," he said, adding, "My students deserve the best they can get."

The pre-law mentorship program is open to Saint Joseph's College sophomores, juniors, and seniors interested in attending law school or beginning a career in law. For more information, contact Watkins at ext.(219) 866-6350 or peter@saintjoe.edu.



Photo courtesy of Bree Ma'Aytech.

SJC's Center for Indiana Partnerships to Aid Students in Career Search

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

Leslie Hielema, Director of the new Center for Indiana Partnerships at Saint Joseph's College, is using her expertise to create a network for students in search of internships and career opportunities. Her position was made possible by the Initiative to Promote Opportunity Through Educational Collaborations grant through Lilly Endowment.

"[The state of Indiana] is a large importer of college freshmen but an exporter of college graduates. The purpose of the grant is to keep Indiana college graduates in Indiana," Hielema explained. "The state offers internationally renowned programs and has people from all the over the world anxious to attend its universities, but it has yet to develop industries in the way necessary to keep its graduates."

Hielema is working with businesses, government agencies, schools, not-for-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies, libraries, foundations, hospitals, clinics, and churches in order to locate internships,

project-focused opportunities, and large-scale collaborative projects for SJC's student body. The program can also serve as a strategy for developing the managerial skills of employees who directly work with students, as well as provide companies and organizations with an effective way to identify, assess, and develop future employees and accomplish meaningful work.

In addition to meeting with businesses in local counties to generate interest in partnering with SJC, Hielema is also busy with two other projects: a Web site listing all potential opportunities and companies in which students can become involved and a mentor network that will connect students with potential career contacts.

"These programs will benefit SJC students by making local companies and organizations aware of the talents and skills our students possess, making them valuable assets in the workplace," she said.

Originally from Illinois, Hielema earned her master's degree in international

management from the University of Boston in Rome. While in Europe, she was AT&T's Director of New Product Development for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. She eventually left AT&T to start her own telecommunications consulting company and, later, an additional business in Italy, which provided customized fine art programs for universities in the United States. After spending nine years in Europe, she returned to the U.S. and began teaching in Valparaiso University's graduate business administration program.

For more information, contact Hielema at ext. 6116.



Photo courtesy of Bree Ma'Aytech

**SUB
Presents:**

Comedian
Tom Cotter

Friday, Oct. 1
8-11 p.m. in the Ballroom

Remember to turn in
your
Kairos XXXIX
registrations by
Friday, Oct. 1,
to the Campus Ministry
Office



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For questions, email
measure-editors@saintjoe.edu.

Rockin' the Block at Noll

By Mike Rogers, *Staff Writer*

On a beautiful September afternoon last Saturday the block was rockin' outside Noll Hall. It began in the late afternoon and carried over into the early evening. The sky was clear, and the air was cool, making for a great backdrop to the festivities. There was food, drinks, and a DJ spinning records both new and old for all audiences to enjoy. Live music was expected, and once I got there I was a little disappointed. That is, until I went to sample the food. Even though it smelled great, I wasn't expecting much since there were so many people in line to get it. I always figure food made for the masses can never be that great. Boy, was I wrong. The live music would have been nice, but once I got some food on my plate, nothing else really

seemed to matter. I was immersed in my meal, and was happy to be enjoying it where I was. It is always nice to enjoy a meal outdoors, where the air is fresh, and there is so much more to look at. All my senses were being stimulated to the fullest. My ears were buzzing with the sounds of breeze, birds, the crunching of candy apples, and of course, some good music. My eyes were captivated by the sunset, and the lush, green trees. My nose was overwhelmed with the scents of grills cooking and fresh air swirling. My tongue was certainly the most satisfied of all my senses, and I hope you were there to know what I am talking about. I think it's safe to say that I wasn't the only one thinking these things. All present seemed to be enjoying themselves, and

everyone to whom I talked absolutely loved the food. A lot more people showed up than I would have imagined, and it seemed to really be the spot to be for at least a couple of hours. Surprisingly, everything was cleaned up very quickly, and very easily. No one made a huge mess, and the parking lot was respected. All in all, it was fun and worked out very well. If you weren't there that's too bad, but there will always be next time.

If you are a fan of cookin' out on the grill with a bunch of friends, some good music, and candy apples and cotton candy, then this is where you needed to be. Hopefully you were there, and if not you better make it out there the next time that Noll rocks the block.

Student Completes State Government Summer Internship

By Becky Scherer, *Publications and Media Relations Intern*

Junior Political Science major Joseph Dovidio has known for nearly two years that he wants to go into politics someday. This past summer, the first steps towards his goal were realized as he obtained an internship with the Board of Supervisors for Orange and Los Angeles Counties in his hometown state of California.

Dovidio worked directly for the Chairman of the board supervisors, who is second in command only to the Governor, and came in everyday contact with various governmental councils and mayors, including State Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Everyday going to work, I felt like a kid in a candy store," he said. "I was so excited with what I was doing and really felt like I was making a difference."

In Orange County, he was appointed the only intern, where he focused on environmental issues. He handled major concerns with harbors, beaches, and parks and assured the safety of the water quality for animal ecosystems and human drinking water. Many of his projects required him to manage flood

control and other hazardous environmental condition warnings.

For Dovidio's work in L.A. County, he was one of two interns accompanying a department consisting of fifteen employees. Although one of his concerns continued to be environmental issues, this work allowed him to focus mainly on the protection of civil liberties. He worked closely with the American Civil Liberties Union, particularly with the distinction between church and state. He took on an active role in a court case that sought to defend a state organization emblem, under scrutiny because of a small cross depicted on it. In addition, Dovidio's job duties also included work with policing and enforcement systems as well as immigrant population factors.

Working in California reinforced Dovidio's conviction of active participation in the democratic process. He believes that Americans need to participate more in the electoral process and encourages everyone to vote in the upcoming election. "Democracy gives us the freedom to voice our opinions, and we do that by registering to vote and getting out to the polls," he said.

The most beneficial aspect of Dovidio's experience lies in the hands-on knowledge he acquired, which he considers priceless. "The best thing was going behind the scenes with everyone rather than learning from a textbook," he said. "It's a much different learning experience when you can see someone execute the knowledge and facts that you were taught in a classroom. You get something different out of it."

A favorite part of Dovidio's experience was meeting and working alongside Schwarzenegger, particularly when he and his coworkers sang "Happy Birthday" to the celebrity.

As a result of his internship, Dovidio has teamed up with SJC Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Peter Watkins to devise a unique independent study course for this fall. The class focuses on federalism and utilizes Dovidio's recent experience while prompting him to delve deeper into the realm of politics and government. "I've always been interested in politics, and [this internship] was great because I got to see the background of what I've been learning. I was able to apply what I learned in Dr. Watkins' classes," he said.

Movie Review: *Without a Paddle*

By Joe Larson, *Staff Writer*

The only appropriate way to begin a review of *Without a Paddle* is to use a bad canoe joke, so here it is: A priest, a rabbi, and a monkey are canoeing down a river when they all die. The moral of the story is that monkeys can carry the Ebola virus. As you might have already guessed, *Without a Paddle* has much to do with canoes but very little to do with diseased monkeys (the jury's still out on its relevance to priests and rabbis). Directed by Steven Bill, *Without a Paddle* tells the story of three men who honor the death of a friend by searching for D.B. Cooper's treasure (for those of you who don't know, D.B. Cooper is an alias for the Lucky Charms Leprechaun). As they canoe down an Oregon river following a map from their childhood, the men become lost and

have a run-in with marijuana-farming rednecks. The results are not magically delicious.

Without a Paddle is about as mindless as it sounds, although it does offer some mildly humorous moments for about the first twenty-five minutes. Things start going downhill with the bear scene. Whether it be dancing for a cruel human master or eating a porridge-guzzling little girl, bears can do a lot of funny things. Unfortunately for *Without a Paddle*, mistaking a grown man for a bear cub is not one of them. This gag fails on a number of levels - mostly the level that says a bear would have to literally be retarded to mistake a human for a cub. Then again, it's not fair to put all the blame on the "special" bear. Seth Green is not a bad actor, but

he has never been cut out to play the straight man (standing in at 5'4", he's barely cut out to play a man at all - but that's another story).

This movie fails most spectacularly when it tries to be sentimental. The characters in this genre - which I like to call the mindless-comedy-with-a-retarded-bear genre - are too thin to warrant actual interest, so when they talk about their feelings, the audience should start talking about a refund. But besides the senseless plot, uninteresting characters, and stupid gags, the movie is not entirely terrible. *Without a Paddle* has a few funny moments, but there are not enough of them to make the movie worth paying to watch.

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Courtesy of www.modestmouse.com

Modest Mouse *The Moon and Antarctica*

If you have yet to hear about Modest Mouse, then it is about time you had! This indie rock trio from Issaquah, WA, has been gaining attention since their release of *Lonesome Crowded West*. Since then, they have signed with Epic and released two more full-length albums. Their latest release, *Good News for People Who Love Bad News*, brought commercial success and publicity to the band. While *Good News* is a great album, their 2000 release, *The Moon and Antarctica*, is arguably their best album.

The Moon and Antarctica's theme exceeds their previous albums. Front man Isaac Brock's lyrics easily could be considered prose, as he seems to have written the entire content of the album in a train of thought. His personal frustrations are the main theme of this album as seen in the many questions Brock asks throughout this album. As the album comes to a close, the listener realizes that instead of Brock finding his answers, he finds more questions..

Along with Brock's creative lyrics, Modest Mouse's sound is very unique. *The Moon and Antarctica* starts off sweet and innocent with the song "3rd Planet". Front man Brock's guitar plucking and vocals are soft while his lyrics lay out the theme of the album. As the album moves forward, "Tiny Cities Made of Ashes" takes the listener by surprise with the double tracking of Brock's voice and sudden outbursts. The other-world sound of "The Cold Part" floats like a ballad with the over-dubbed echoes behind Brock's somber tone. "A Wild Pack of Family Dogs" prepares you for the energetic and fun sound of "Paper Thin Walls" (complete with cowbell!). *The Moon and Antarctica* draws to a close with the song "What People Are Made of". This song seems to be an explosion of all the songs that preceded it. It ends unexpectedly, with the clashing of the cymbals and one last scream from Brock.

So, where do you go from here? You go to your local record store and find yourself a copy of this scrumptious album.

For more information, visit www.modestmousemusic.com.

To become a Features writer, contact
Natalie Lapacek at nli4438@saintjoe.edu

Stuff



by Brian Bugajski

Welcome to the first edition of "Stuff," the column full of interesting facts about the SJC campus compiled over the last 115 years of its existence. A few weeks ago I was walking behind Merlini Hall on my way to the Science Building from the Post Office, when I noticed a patch of discolored grass and a pad of concrete that was in the middle of the grass for no specific reason. At first I thought the area was part of the old Administration Building that burned to the ground in 1973, but upon further investigation I discovered that the site once belonged to a different building known as Gaspar Hall.

Gaspar Hall was erected in 1897 as a residence for the Minim Department. The department started in March of 1896 and, as the Saint Joseph's College Chronology states, "among the original boarders there had been a few small boys," who were of pre-high school age. In addition to housing the Minim Department, the building housed the music department which was established in 1899; it caused a change in the name of the building to St. Caecilia Hall, the patron saint of music. The Minim Department was discontinued in 1903, and in 1905 the hall became home for a number of priests and brothers living on campus. The three story building remained a residence for the clergy until the summer of 1940 when the second and third floors of the Old Administration Building were renovated to house them, leaving Caecilia Hall open for

student residents. That same year the hall was renamed Gaspar Hall in honor of the founding saint of the C.P.S., St. Gaspar de Bufalo.

Just a year prior to becoming a student residence hall, Gaspar Hall's basement was converted into the "J" Café. The Centennial Pictorial History of Saint Joseph's College states, "It housed a counter where coffee, sandwiches, ice cream, candy, tobacco, souvenirs, etc., were sold, and it also provided chairs and tables for socializing." The "J" Café was moved to Raleigh Hall in 1947, and the College Bookstore took up residence in the basement of Gaspar Hall, where it remained until 1963. The students living in Gaspar Hall, when not in the basement at the "J" Café, used the north side fire escape which faced the Science Building as a make-shift balcony. "Occasionally, water-filled balloons were dropped on unwary people entering the building below," said Fr. Dominic Gerlach, C.P.S., author of the Centennial Pictorial History.

In 1973, the same Administration Building that made space for students to move into Gaspar Hall burned to the ground and forced students out of Gaspar Hall to make room for faculty offices that were destroyed by the fire. "In 1980, the faculty offices were moved into Merlini Hall and in 1981 moved again," reports the Centennial Pictorial History. Gaspar Hall then remained vacant until November 1982 when it was demolished. The Saint Joseph's College Chronology recounts the death of this significant building as occurring, "to the regret of some and the satisfaction of others... Its demise left a vacant spot on campus and in the hearts of many."

So, men of Merlini, remember the next time you play catch in the field behind your hall that there used to be a crucial part of campus where you are standing. And I would further encourage everyone on campus to reflect on the different aspects of the landscape here that remain as shadows of the past.

You never know what a patch of discolored grass and random pad of concrete will uncover.

SJC Camping Retreat

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

Hate camping? Well, even if you do, that is not an excuse for not attending Campus Ministry's annual Camping Retreats, offered two times a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. On September 24, students left the SJC campus for Tippecanoe State Park for a weekend of rest, relaxation, and community-building activities while enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors.

Junior Bob Jansen, who has played an active role in planning former camping retreats, described the camping retreat experience as, "The purpose of this retreat (as far as I can tell) is community based relaxation. There is a boatload of free time offered on Saturday so that people can just have fun. Some people (like myself) like to just walk in the woods. Others like to go to the fire tower, sleep, get a tan, or just sit around playing cards. Also, it appeals to a wide variety of people. If you love camping, it's the perfect opportunity to just enjoy a beautiful park. Even if you hate camping (and I've brought a few people that do), you can still enjoy the cabins and shower facilities. Not to mention, Brother Tim cooks for us and no one can beat the camp-food of the infamous brother!"

Senior Renee Pugh added, "I really love that it is a retreat that focuses on the outdoors. I believe that the beauty and majesty of God and His love for us is most visible in His creation." However, you do not need to be a nature enthusiast to enjoy this retreat. Pugh commented, "Many students avoid the retreat because they don't consider themselves the 'outdoorsy' type. Being a bit of a city girl myself, I understand this aversion. However, it is great to get off campus for a few days and immerse yourself in the beauty that surrounds us everyday. Sometimes, you just need to realign yourself with God, and the Camping Retreat is a great opportunity to do so."

Jansen describes the atmosphere of the retreat best by comparing the experience to that of another popular Campus Ministry retreat: Kairos. "In some senses, it's the compliment to Kairos. Kairos focuses on a rigid schedule and tons of activities. The camping retreat makes me think of the scripture passages where Jesus went away to the mountain to pray... That type of activity allows someone to experience God on their time, not necessarily God's time, like Kairos espouses. It is spiritual because of the companionship, relaxation, and activities. I think both are necessary experiences to have for a well-rounded spiritual life."

After you have attended the Camping Retreat once or twice, you have the option, like Pugh, to take an active role in the planning and leading of the retreat. The Retreat is planned predominantly by students, with, according to Jansen, Brother Tim acting "as the resource man." Pugh, for example, chose to give a talk during this year's retreat, which enhanced what she got out of the retreat experience. She said, "Giving a talk [gave] me a different perspective. While the Camping Retreat is a fairly laid back and informal retreat, there is still a great deal of planning and work that goes into it. It also allowed me to confront some personal difficulties I have encountered of late. By giving a talk, I was able to take even more away from the retreat, while hopefully giving to others as well."

You might think being too busy or having too full a schedule prevents you from attending the Camping Retreat. However, it may be just the thing for which you are looking to give you the opportunity to relax, put things in perspective, and rejuvenate your spirit. So when the next Camping Retreat, usually held the weekend before finals, rolls around, consider taking a study break by enjoying nature and fellowship out at Tippecanoe State Park.

Camping Retreat 2004



Pictures courtesy of Veronica Shook.



Musical Review: Chicago at Clowes Hall



By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

"Music oft hath such a charm
To make bad good,
And good provoke to harm."
Measure for Measure. (IV, I, 14)

Hello, fellow musical lovers!

On September 10, some friends and I went to Clowes Hall to see the musical *Chicago*. The consensus was that the performance was great, but there were some disagreements about the show itself. Sophomore Danny Waclaw said, "It was good, but I personally liked the movie better. The actors in the movie were smoother." Sophomore Teresa Moreno disagreed. "Bob Fosse rocks my face off! I like the fact that they kept the original choreography for the song, 'Hot Honey Rag.' It was scrumptious!" Senior Brandon Hatfield concurred, "Seeing it alive is better than watching the movie."

I thought the show was also better than the movie, and I'm glad I saw it on-stage. For those of you who are not familiar with the musical *Chicago*, it is a story about murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, and treachery.

The musical was showing at Clowes Hall during September 8, 9, and 10. Toyota Broadway in Indianapolis presented it and will present other musicals throughout the year.

This year's lineup for Clowes Hall include the opera *Madame Butterfly* on November 19-21, and musicals such as *Oklahoma!* on December 14-19, Disney's *On the Record* on March 22-27, and *Mamma Mia!* on April 5-10.

Living on an.....Island

A Special Report from Ken Badylak

National recognition and football are not put together all too often here at Saint Joseph's College. However, more and more faces from around the country are coming to SJC to play football. The amount of new faces on the football team is mostly due to Head Coach Tim Lester and his new coaching staff. "Young people have the opportunity to play," said Coach Lester. "We recruit our backyard first," (referring to Indiana, Chicago Catholic League, and the Midwest).

When recruiting a young man from hundreds of miles away, the staff and Coach Lester must feel like that person will contribute in their first year. They believe a young man from the south or west coast will not have any fun leaving home to sit out for a few years before seeing the field. Needless to say, through four weeks of the season the Pumas are being led by freshman in several statistical categories.

A small community, campus and total of two wins last season do not appeal to most high school seniors looking to continue their career and education. Nevertheless, groups of freshman from around the country are now calling Rensselaer home.

SJC feels like living on an island for freshman punt return specialist/wide receiver and future sprinter for the Puma track team Grant Dean. Athletic Director and Head Track Coach Bill Massoels initially recruited Dean as a sprinter and jumper for the track team. When the new football coaching staff was put into place Dean found himself a two-sport athlete.

Dean's hometown of Hillsboro Oregon is more than 2,200 miles away from the SJC campus, but he is learning to call his small dorm room "home." The biggest adjustment for Dean is

getting used to not seeing his parents in the stands. Dean's mother was in attendance in the season opener against Ashland, however when the team returned home to play Saint Francis his family was no where to be seen. His father was in town to see Grant play in the Homecoming victory against West Virginia Tech and will attempt to see his son play more as the season continues.

A special moment for Dean will come October ninth when the Pumas travel to Seattle to play Western Washington, a short six hours from Hillsboro. Dean's



Grant Dean (29) and Lance Burns (16) have been key contributors for the Pumas.

family and friends are expected to be in the stands watching Dean for the first time in a collegiate game.

Freshman defensive back Lance Burns came to SJC for the opportunity to play football from Miami, Florida. A mere 1,300 miles now separate Burns from his hometown.

Burns, a Communications major, enjoys the freedom college students enjoy but is adjusting to the amount of work and practice he has to budget for.

Freshman linebacker Fred Blanton, a Business Administration major from Toledo, Ohio, is only 260 miles from home (about four and a half hours). However, being on campus without a car means Blanton might as well be living on an island.

The biggest adjustment for Blanton has been playing in front of a smaller crowd and not having his parents in the stands for every game. "I [used to] feel comfortable because I [used to] know they're watching," said Blanton.



All photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Blanton and Burns both have aspirations of taking football as far as their abilities will allow them, but they have plans to be successful in the workforce, as well. Blanton would like to own his own business and Burns has plans to work in television production. Dean, on the other hand, would like to enter the sports industry in a marketing position.

The question still remains: how do coaches sell Saint Joseph's College to

athletes that live in different parts of the country? Coach Massoels emphasizes the strengths of the school and program but never lies about any of the weaknesses. Coach Massoels can also boast the success of his coaching record to lure kids from outside the Midwest.

Coach Lester admits SJC cannot sell a young man on their facilities but can emphasize academics. The core program is a big selling point for the football staff simply because of the amount of experience a young man can get at SJC. An important selling point in recruiting is that it helps the program if a coach knows the right people. All the coaches on the SJC staff have connections in different regions, which allow them to identify possible recruits more efficiently.

If the effectiveness of the class of 2008 is any indication of how the current football staff can recruit, then the Saint Joseph's College football team and the term "national recognition" might be used together a little more than normal.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? The Pumas' hometown states

INDIANA-41

MICHIGAN-18

ILLINOIS-10

OHIO-4

FLORIDA-4

WISCONSIN-2

CALIFORNIA-1

A Letter from the Editor...



the sports section. My goal is to provide more in-depth coverage of all sports this

Hello fellow Pumas! As the new Sports Editor for *The Observer* this year, I would like to make a few subtle changes to

year. The issues in the past have focused primarily on football or basketball—I want to give you, the readers, every bit of information happening here on campus. We have a talented group of writers eager to cover Puma sports, and I feel this is the best group of writers the sports section has ever had. As a staff, we vow to provide the best coverage possible. Not only will we recap particular teams' seasons, but we will offer feature articles and

other personal bios of some of the athletes here on campus. The staff and I are always eager for feedback, whether it may be positive or negative. So now I thank you so much for picking up this issue of *The Observer*. I guarantee you will like what you see this year.

-Adam Lowell Mandon

Do you like sports?
Do you like to write?

Contact
Adam Mandon at
ext. 5139 if you are
interested in writing
for *The Observer*.

Coach Lou Wants YOU at These Upcoming Home Games



October 1

Men's Soccer vs. Quincy 5:30 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. Quincy 7:30 p.m.

October 2

Softball-Saint Joseph's Tournament 12:00 p.m.

October 3

Men's Soccer vs. SIU Edwardsville 12:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. SIU Edwardsville 2:30 p.m.

October 6

Volleyball vs. St. Xavier 7:00 p.m.

October 9

Volleyball vs. Bellarmine 1:00 p.m.

October 11

Volleyball vs. Taylor 7:00 p.m.

Team Chemistry Leads to Wins for Volleyball

By Allison Segarra, Staff Writer

The crisp scent of fall has not touched the SJC campus yet, but the enthusiasm of the fall sports season has engulfed us all. The Puma volleyball team is an integral part of fall fever. Their current record is 7-11 and they are 3-1 in the conference (as of September 25th).

The team kicked off the year with a weekend trip to Colorado. They were able to experience competing against teams they had never challenged in the past. "It was also a great chance to build team unity," said junior middle hitter Shelley Figiel. Most of the ladies' families traveled to Colorado to support their daughters, so the team got acquainted with each other on a more personal level.

Eleven players returned to the team this season, which has built a solid core for the team to depend on. Sophomore transfer students Melissa Rind and Stacey West are full of vim and vigor. Rind is a classic hustler with incredible defensive skills and an outstanding vertical. She is a constant vocal presence, keeping spirits high. West contributes with a quick arm swing and even quicker feet.

2004 graduate and alumni volleyball player Beth Lipinski has now become the assistant coach for the Pumas. She says that, "Practice has allowed the new members to adjust and the team is working together well." Lipinski would like to see an improved passing/defense game this year. "We have an amazing offense this year and being able to establish an all-around game will allow us to be unstoppable."

SJC volleyball captain positions have been awarded to seniors Kristyn Corley and Jill Mourey. They made it perfectly clear that they aspire to win every home game and hold the number one slot in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which would lead them to the tournament. Junior setter Britney Wikierak spoke highly of the captains. "They have done a great job as leaders. They respect us and listen to our problems and concerns. They are like big sisters to us all."

If the team continues to work hard, stay focused and keep their positive attitudes, the winning streak is sure to prevail.

SJC Men's and Women's Soccer Struggle Early

By Mike Beckner, Staff Reporter

The men's and women's soccer teams both have been a little slow out of the gate this season. But to both teams' credit, their schedules have been tough. The men and the women's program have each faced two nationally ranked teams and come away with hard fought losses. The rest of the non-conference games have all been equally tough outcomes to deal with.

The men's current record is 1-7-1, with a 0-2-1 record in conference (as of September 25). The team has gotten contributions from almost everyone this season trying to find some way to put it all together and make the conference tournament. Two of the main contributions have come from sophomore sensations John Grigorakis and Brad Habel.

Grigorakis has been playing forward for the Pumas and he has three goals and two assists. Habel, an



Sophomore Brad Habel has four assists.

outside midfielder, has contributed four assists and has taken part in almost every goal the Pumas have scored this season.

The women's current record is 1-4-4, with a 1-1-1 record in conference (as of September 25). The Lady Pumas team has an attack that is not very well foreseen by any team. The contributions are coming from every angle of the field. The leading goal scorers so far this season for the Lady Pumas are junior forward/midfielder Melissa Melinauskas and junior forward/midfielder Brittany Cox with three goals. Just behind these leading scorers are freshman midfielder Aniela Pulice with two assists and senior Nicole Nowaczyk with one.

The program is also very fortunate to add a new member to the program, and that new edition is assistant coach Jason Doleac, coming to the Pumas from the College of Charleston where he played Division I soccer. Both teams agree his knowledge of the game and skills on the field have been beneficial to enhancing the soccer experience for all.

Men's 2004 Cross Country Season Full of Promise

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

When Eric Flemming wakes up every morning, he knows that his journey to Saint Joseph's College has been anything but a simple plan. Flemming, a junior transfer student, has been on quite an educational voyage.

Attending Southern Indiana as a freshman, Vincennes as a sophomore, and finally becoming a Puma this year has been anything but usual. "Overcoming my past and persisting for a new start, I have found that Saint Joseph's College is the perfect environment for me," stated Flemming. He is not the only one who is trying to make a difference this year at SJC; just ask the six other male cross country runners.

Whenever the leaves turn colors and the summer air seems to disappear, one knows that the Cross Country season is underway. The 2004 Puma Cross Country campaign looks to be a promising one; one with championship caliber. The Puma harriers are a young squad this year, made up of just one upperclassmen and four sophomores and two freshmen collectively. Despite the lack of veteran experience, the men's team works and practices like a squad of true competitors.

The men's cross country team has high goals and expectations in mind. Priority number one is to capture the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship, contend at the Edwardsville Regional, and fare well at the Division II National Championship Meet.

The men have already discovered much success this year, finishing 14th at the Notre Dame National Catholic



Joe King has two top-ten finishes this year

Invite, third at Valparaiso, and also capturing first place honors at the Puma Invitational.

So far, the men's team is on track to satisfy most of the goals presented at the beginning of the season. "I would say that this looks like one of the best teams that Saint Joseph's College has ever seen. And with all of us only being freshman

and sophomores, the future is very bright," an optimistic Joe King, sophomore, stated. "I also think that conference is looking very good for the team this year and that we might be on our way to nationals as a team for the first time in a long time."

Regardless of how the team fares in the future, the 2004 campaign will be memorable for lone senior Dan Shiplov, a four year letterman. "During my four years of cross country, I have developed myself as a runner and a person. I've realized that cross country and all other sports in college take a great deal of mental toughness to succeed. My coach (Bill Massoels) and teammates throughout the years have really helped me become a stronger athlete, along with a better student. I couldn't have lasted this long without them," he commented.

Head Coach Bill Massoels, now entering his 15th year as Head Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach, is very eager about the progress and potential for the harriers. "I am very excited about the progress the team is making. I believe we accomplished our goal coming out of our Base Phase and if we can accomplish the same goal coming out of the Anaerobic Threshold Phase, very good things can happen."

The Women's Cross Country team will be featured next issue.

Chicago Bears Already Looking to 2005

Editorial By Adam Mandon, Sports Editor

Injuries in the Chicago Bears' secondary are piling on faster than hungry SJC students waiting in line for cyber wraps. First it was cornerback Jerry Azumah and Mike Brown. Then came word last week that sophomore sensation cornerback Charles "Peanut" Tillman is out seven-to-ten weeks. That means that the three starting members of the secondary combined will miss least 25 games in the 2004 season. R.W. McQuarters, Mike

Green Todd McMillon, Todd Johnson, rookie Nate Vasher and second year man Bobby Gray have got to step up their games this season.

Taking a couple steps toward the line of scrimmage, Brian Urlacher will miss two weeks due to a sore hamstring. He has not been the player he was a few years ago before he signed that huge multi-million dollar contract. However, he still anchors this defense.

Can the Bears be competitive despite these injuries? Why not. The defensive line, on paper, looks

much better this year than in years past. Defensive ends Alex Brown and Adewale Ogundeye need to apply more pressure on the quarterback, forcing the opposition into making poor decisions. The secondary cannot be relied upon to cover receivers for long periods of time as they were toward the end of last year and in the first two weeks this season.

The optimist says the defense as a whole has been improved this season. What's better yet is that the offense will score points, meaning less pressure will be

placed on the "bend but don't break" Bears' defense.

At this point, the Bears have no chance of making the playoffs. Ten wins will win the NFC North, and the Bears will finish five games short of that mark. But if they were healthy, they would be the best team in the division. This is the season the Bears get a good draft pick, pick up a couple of great receivers, and make a deep run in the playoffs next year. But this is all wishful thinking. Remember, we're talking about the Bears.

Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

If something disagreeable enters your life soon, be sure to greet it with a smile and do not let your anger or negative feelings overcome you. You will find that not dwelling on this misfortune is actually the best way to conquer it, and you will be pleasantly surprised with the final outcome of the situation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You and one of your closest friends may not see eye to eye on a very important matter in the near future. Remember that in order to get past your differences, you and this friend will need to look at the problem from both perspectives, not just your own. This matter can be resolved quickly if dealt with appropriately.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Your carefree attitude can, at some times, be an asset to your

personality and character, but you may soon find that it can also be rather detrimental. Remember that there are things in life that do need to be taken seriously, and you must learn to discern the difference.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

If you are confronted with a serious problem in the near future, consider turning to a family member for advice. While this may be an unlikely place for you to turn, it will be very worth your while to do so. Remember that family often knows you better than any friend ever can.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Do you have outstanding debts that you have been ignoring lately? If so, it is important that you address these debts and make some attempt to eliminate them from your life. Not doing so now will very likely cause much distress in the future, so act quickly before things get too far out of hand.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Those around you seem to be especially moody lately, and you feel at times that perhaps it is due to some fault of yours. This is probably not the case, so it is best that you treat these people with as much concern and compassion as possible, and things will likely change for the better shortly.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

If you have been tired and worn out all of the time lately, it is time for you to slow down and take some time out for yourself. While being busy with many activities is fine for awhile, you may become sick if you do not take the time out to recharge your batteries. Don't wait until it is too late!

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

Are you currently involved in a large project that just doesn't

seem to be taking off? If so, then you need to take a step back and figure out exactly what the problem is before trying to solve it. Taking action before figuring out the consequences of that action could push you back much further in your progress than you already are.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Someone may falsely accuse you of something in the near future, and before you become automatically defensive, remember that your accuser is only operating based upon what he or she believes to be true. Help this person to ascertain the real truth rather than becoming angry and defensive.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Lending money to a friend right now is not a very good idea. You are feeling overly generous, and the risk involved in lending

money may not be obvious to you at this time. You will not hurt your friend's feelings by refusing them, and you will ultimately save this relationship.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You have been having difficulty trusting those closest to you lately, and because of this you are alienating many of your friends. Instead of pushing them away, talk to those closest to you and let them know what is upsetting you. Keeping this inside could damage your relationships permanently.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

All of your life you have compared yourself to others and judged your own merit in comparison to those around you. It is time to take a step back and realize that you have your own, individual worth apart from everyone else. By doing this you will experience much personal and spiritual growth.



Banned Books Week

This week, 9/25--10/02 is Banned Books week. This is the American Library Association's List of the top 10 Banned Books. See if you can guess why!

- 1. Scary Stories (Series) by Alvin Schwartz
- 2. Daddy's Roommate by Michael Willhoite
- 3. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- 4. The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
- 5. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
- 6. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- 7. Harry Potter (Series) by J.K. Rowling
- 8. Forever by Judy Blume
- 9. Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- 10. Alice (Series) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Courtesy of www.ala.org

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Do you have an original short story, poem, reflection, comic, or other work that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of The Observer? Please contact Sandra at swh4014@saintjoe.edu to submit your work.

SJC Poet's Corner

Attitudes set aside
Like the moon at dusk
Not quite squandered but
phased out
And after summer has passed
Outrage will diminish into
dust
And surf the fall tide into
wind tunnels
To Where?

-Cortny Woodruff

untitled you

Smoking a cigarette reminds
me of you
walking the streets and
talking of falangistas
and worrying about essential-
ism
your words are drawn tight
about you like a coat
against a cold winter chill
the embers of the cigarette are
stoked
when you inhale shades of
autumn,
and I am reminded of myself
as a child
throwing leaves on a fire.

I have walked the streets with
you
I have been lost in the black
tangles of your hair
Your love was fleeting like the
rain
I could once follow the sound
of your heart
And feel your breath beside me
in the night
But now I've forgotten the way
you look
The way you'd skip words as
stones across water
I now misplace my steps,
walking instead towards the sea.

-melissa alba

September 11, 2001--
Looking Back

The sky is bright blue and the
weather is perfect,
a daughter and wife are to visit
a father for lunch
when the sky erupts in a frenzy
of fire and smoke
"What's happening, mom?"
Her mother's face is frozen in
terror

as she looks at the explosion
"Mom, why are they jumping?
Can't someone help?"
"I don't know" is all her mother
can say.
Later that night when they sit
down to eat
her little girl asks
"When's daddy coming home?"
The mother looks into her
daughter's face
as tears swell in her eyes
"Daddy's not coming home
today," she says as she cries
"But, why, mom? What's
wrong? Where's daddy to-
night?"
"Daddy's eating with the angels
in heaven tonight."
"Will he come back?" the little
girls asks
"No, honey, he can't"
"Why did this happen?" she
can't understand
"There's no reason I see."
The daughter looks over and
starts to cry too.
Her father had died by no fault
of his own
September 11, 2001
Forever remembered.
When everything stopped and
everyone stared

The people, a city, a state,
and a nation
came together to fight the
terrorists that struck us that
day
to help the families who lost
loved ones and friends
to help answer the question-
What happens then?
Attacked with surprise, a
devastation occurred
but through it all a nation
was heard;
we held our heads high and
said through the rumble
as we all saw the sight,
we won't crumble because
we will put up a fight.
A year has gone by and the
little girl knows
her daddy died that day and
it's one of her woes,
but she holds up her head
and strongly declares
I'm proud of our country and
the things we have done
I'm proud to state that here I
am one.

-Dani Klosowski

Want to see your poem
in print??? Email
swh4014@saintjoe.edu